Shortage of Staff in Hospitals

†2782. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been shortage of doctors and other staff in all the hospitals for last three to four years as a result of which patients have been facing difficulties; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to recruit doctors and other staff in such hospitals ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Recruitment is a continuous process. Already a Departmental Screening Committee, constituted as per laid down instructions of the Government has cleared filling up of 299 posts in various categories in the Central Government, Hospitals. Further action to fill up these posts is underway. The vacant posts of doctors are also being filled after following the procedure laid down by the Government in this regard.

Recognition of Pharmacy Diploma Courses

†2783. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure for recognition of the Pharmacy Diploma Courses conducted by Polytechnics by the Pharmacy Council of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the stipulated procedure of recognition is not being followed by the above institution and timely recognition is not granted to the Pharmacy courses being conducted by the State Government Polytechnics; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken by Government to regularize the procedure of recognition ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Any authority in a State which intends to conduct the Diploma Course in Pharmacy is required to fulfil all the requirements of Education Regulations 1991 as amended from time to time and apply to the Pharmacy Council for approval of the course under Section 12 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Pharmacy Council strictly adheres to the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 the Regulations made thereunder and the stipulated procedure for recognistion of the D. Pharma Course.

Funds to Karnataka for HIV/AIDS Control

2784. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to sanction Rs. 20 crores to control HIV/AIDS through the National AIDS Control Organisation;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned during 2002-03; and

(c) the amount proposed to be sanctioned during 2003-04 ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) In their action plans for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04, the Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society proposed budgetary outlays of Rs. 2852.52 lakhs and Rs. 3167.79 lakhs respectively. Against these proposals, National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) approved the budgetary allocation of Rs. 1099.22 lakhs for the year 2002-03 and Rs. 1224.37 lakhs for the year 2003-04.

Alternative medical therapies

2785. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have banned Degrees/Diplomas on alternative medical therapies like Acupressure, Acupuncture, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of circulars and orders issued by Government;

(c) whether such orders were issued on the basis of Court's Orders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) There is no provision for banning or otherwise, a system of medicine which is not recognised. A Standing